

A Lifeline for Biodiversity

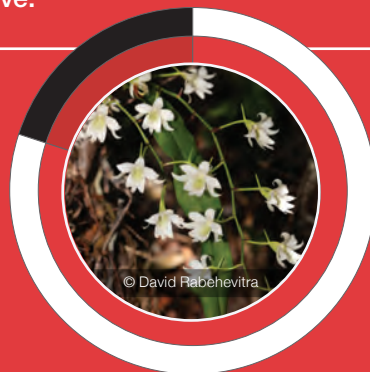
The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)



A Sakalava rail (*Zapornia olivieri*), listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, Madagascar. © O. Langrand

Biodiversity, the life-support system of the planet, needs urgent attention to prevent its rapid and irreversible erosion. And people need biodiversity to survive.

“UP TO 1 MILLION SPECIES ARE THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION, MANY WITHIN DECADES.”



© David Rabehivitra

Negative trends in biodiversity and ecosystems undermine our efforts to achieve 80 percent of the targets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals related to poverty, hunger, health, water, cities, climate, oceans and land.”

- *Summary, global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), May 2019*

CEPF and its civil society partners around the globe are ready with proven approaches to protect biodiversity and ecosystems that are essential for human existence and good quality of life.

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND



Deforestation, Prey Lang, Cambodia. © Jeremy Holden

The future of the planet hangs in the balance.

75%

of Earth's land surface has been significantly altered, causing major declines in species.

IPBES Report: More findings about the biodiversity crisis

- Current coverage of protected areas is still not sufficient to protect our biodiversity.
- 35% of protected areas managed by indigenous peoples are under increasing pressure from extractive industries.
- Loss of coastal habitats and coral reefs has reduced coastal protection, and 100 to 300 million people are vulnerable to floods and hurricanes.
- 75% of global food crop types rely on animal pollination, yet at least US\$235 billion in global crop output is at risk because of pollinator loss.
- 5% of species are at risk of extinction from 2°C of warming, rising to 16% at 4.3°C of warming.



Mysterious narrow-mouthed frog (*Mysticellus franki*), Western Ghats, India. © SD Biju

Through financial support and organizational strengthening, CEPF empowers civil society organizations in the world's biodiversity hotspots to deliver innovative, enduring solutions that conserve these highest-priority areas and help communities thrive.


- Two decades of experience.
- More than 2,300 grantees—primarily grassroots actors—in 93 countries and territories.
- US\$237 million granted and an added US\$371 million leveraged.
- Successful conservation models ready to be scaled up worldwide.

CEPF: Protecting biodiversity by empowering people

2000-2019


 **3,100**
communities directly benefited


 **250**
policies or laws enacted or amended

 **1,250**
species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species supported

 **27**
sustainable finance mechanisms supported

 **15**
million hectares of protected areas created

 **44.6**
million hectares of Key Biodiversity Areas with improved management

 **7.8**
million hectares of production landscape managed to support biodiversity

 **288**
multistakeholder partnerships created and/or supported

CEPF-funded projects contribute to:

7 OF THE 20
U.N. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD) AICHI TARGETS

10 OF THE 17
U.N. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS=

EARTH'S MOST **BIOLOGICALLY RICH**
— **YET THREATENED** —
TERRESTRIAL REGIONS.



To qualify as a biodiversity hotspot, an area must meet two strict criteria:

CONTAINS **1,500**
AT LEAST

species of vascular plants found nowhere else on Earth
(known as “endemic” species).

BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS WHERE CEPF HAS INVESTED

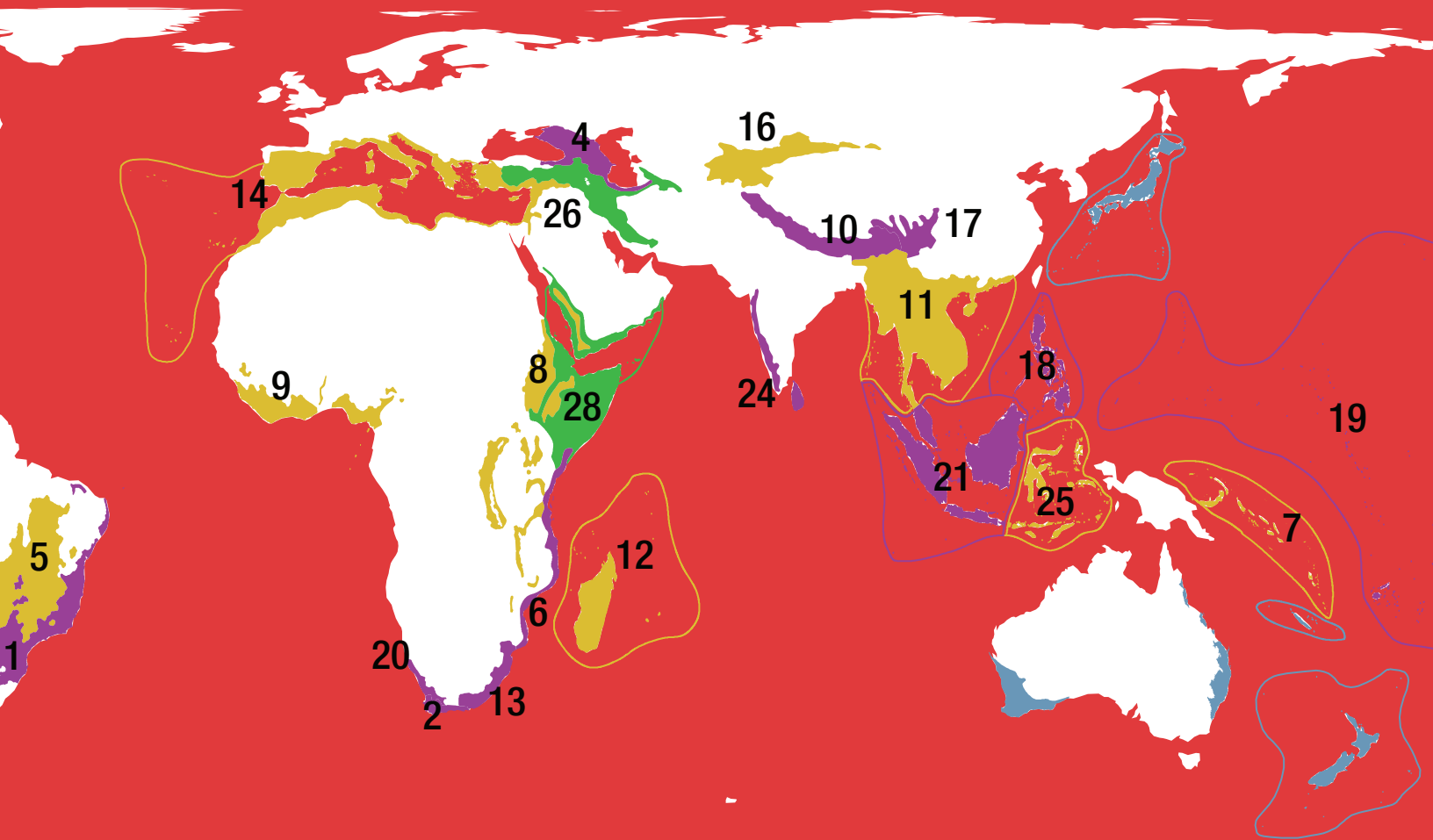
1. Atlantic Forest
2. Cape Floristic Region
3. Caribbean Islands
4. Caucasus
5. Cerrado, current investment: US\$8 million 2016-2021
6. Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa
7. East Melanesian Islands, current investment: US\$9 million, 2013-2021
8. Eastern Afromontane, current investment: US\$12 million, 2012-2019



HAS LOST
AT LEAST
70%
OF ITS PRIMARY
NATIVE VEGETATION.

There are 36 hotspots around the globe. Some are contained in a single country, such as Japan. Others include parts of several countries, such as the Mediterranean Basin Hotspot, which encompasses portions of 34 countries and territories.

In total the intact habitats of the hotspots cover only 2.3 percent of the planet’s surface, but they harbor 77 percent of terrestrial vertebrate species.

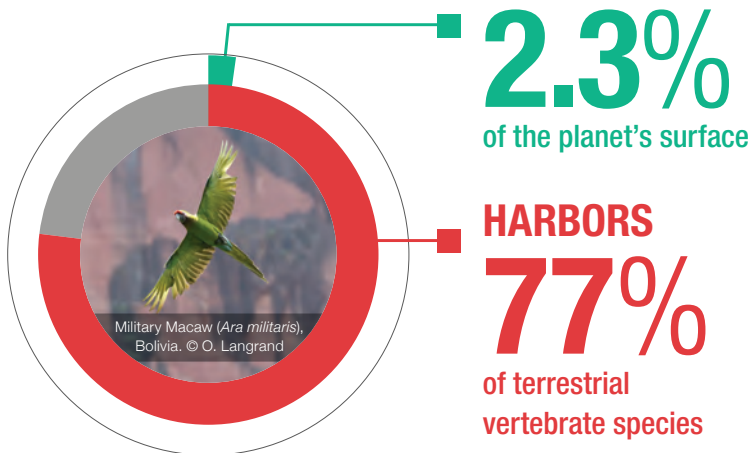


■ Current CEPF Investment
 ■ Past CEPF Investment
 ■ Eligible for CEPF Investment
 ■ Other Hotspots

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Guinean Forests of West Africa, current investment: US\$9 million, 2016-2021 10. Himalaya 11. Indo-Burma, current investment: US\$15.8 million, 2013-2020 12. Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands, current investment: US\$12.28 million, 2015-2022 13. Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany 14. Mediterranean Basin, current investment: US\$10 million, 2017-2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Mesoamerica 16. Mountains of Central Asia, current investment: US\$8 million, 2019-2024 17. Mountains of Southwest China 18. Philippines 19. Polynesia-Micronesia 20. Succulent Karoo 21. Sundaland 22. Tropical Andes, current investment: US\$10 million, 2015-2020 23. Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24. Western Ghats and Sri Lanka 25. Wallacea, current investment: US\$6.85 million, 2014-2019 |
|--|--|--|

ELIGIBLE FOR CEPF INVESTMENT

- 26. Irano-Anatolian
- 27. Chilean Winter Rainfall-Valdivian Forests
- 28. Horn of Africa
- 29. Madrean Pine-Oak Woodlands



Mapping Out a Strategy: CEPF's Ecosystem Profiles

When CEPF's Donor Council approves investment in a biodiversity hotspot, CEPF commissions the development of an ecosystem profile: an analysis of the biodiversity and socio-economic conditions in the hotspot and a regional conservation strategy, which is produced by, and in consultation with, local stakeholders. This document guides CEPF's investment in the hotspot.

IPBES Biodiversity Assessment Recommendations and CEPF

“The global environment can be safeguarded through enhanced international cooperation and linked locally relevant measures.”

CEPF brings together global donors and grassroots civil society organizations to conserve the world’s biodiversity hotspots.

One of CEPF’s objectives is promoting networks that address local, national and regional conservation challenges in biodiversity hotspots. Since 2000, CEPF has created or supported a total of 288 partnerships and networks, including 53 in the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot, 25 in the Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot and 21 in the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot.

◆ An Alliance for the Drin River Basin



▲ Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot

CEPF grantees established the regional **Act4Drin Alliance**, which is coordinating and strengthening NGO participation in policy developments that affect conservation of the Drin River Basin in Albania, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro and North Macedonia.

◆ Network promotes knowledge of invasive species



▲ Polynesia-Micronesia Biodiversity Hotspot

Through the **Pacific Invasives Learning Network** supported by CEPF, grantees share lessons and best practices related to invasive species and promote cooperation.

◆ Bringing together tourism service providers in Peru

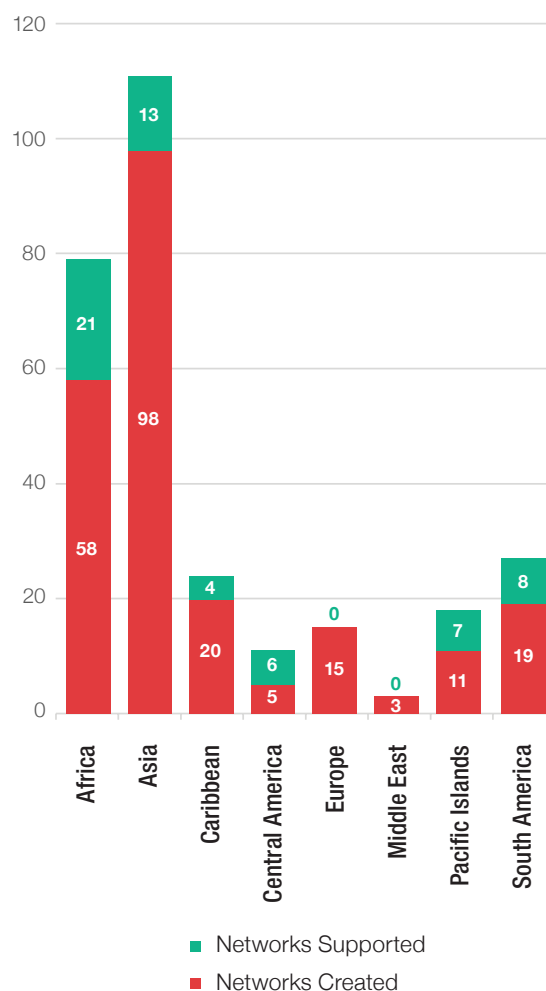


▲ Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot

With CEPF support, the **Association of Tourism Service Providers of Kosñipata Manu** in Peru is strengthening and improving the conditions and opportunities for the development of sustainable tourism in Kosñipata District.

Networks and Partnerships Created and/or Supported

Total = 288



FIVE MAIN INTERVENTIONS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

1.



A Blue Ventures meeting with women in Vassy, Comoros. © Conservation International/Pierre Carret

INCENTIVES AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

A key objective of CEPF is to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to be effective stewards of and advocates for the conservation of biodiversity. Since 2000, CEPF has trained more than 150,000 people in topics such as resource management, species monitoring, organic and sustainable farming

and beekeeping. CEPF also employs targeted grants and technical support to build grantee capacity. Since 2009, CEPF has measured change in organizational capacity of local and national grantees in the biodiversity hotspots. To date, 69 percent of these grantees have reported an increase in their capacity.

◆ Tunisian organization thrives



▲ Mediterranean Basin Biodiversity Hotspot

Nascent NGO Notre Grand Bleu received its first grant in 2015 from CEPF, when it was an all-volunteer operation. Following CEPF support, the organization became the first NGO to co-manage a protected area in Tunisia. Notre Grand Bleu now has six full-time staff and has been able to successfully fundraise from a range of donors.

◆ Communities manage fisheries in Comoros

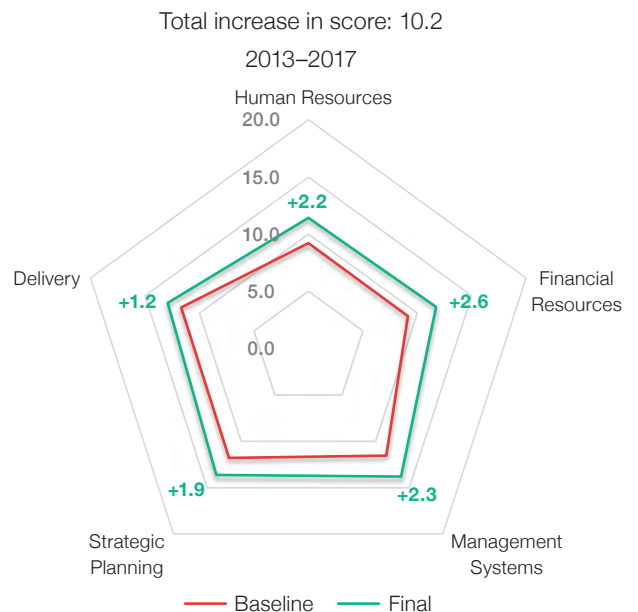


▲ Madagascar & the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

CEPF grantee Blue Ventures has worked with coastal communities in the Bimbini Key Biodiversity Area of Anjouan Island, an area threatened by overfishing, to identify and implement improved fisheries management practices. Through trainings, exchange visits and hands-on participation in reef surveys, local fishers gained knowledge in fisheries management and monitoring. The skills and

knowledge acquired have helped coastal communities manage their resources sustainably.

Evolution of the Mediterranean Basin Small-Grant Recipients' Capacities



2.



Reforestation with native plants in Reserva Privada el Zorzal, Dominican Republic. © Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano

CROSS-SECTORAL COOPERATION

Conservation achievements have a better chance of being sustained if they have broad support, including from the public and private sector. CEPF supports civil society to partner with government agencies and

private sector entities to achieve environmental and social goals. Support can include provision of technical expertise, assistance to convene diverse actors, and guidance on mainstreaming biodiversity into operations.

◆ Private sector innovates for climate and conservation



▲ Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

CEPF grantee Consorcio Dominicano Ambiental worked with private sector partners to create the Dominican Republic's first private protected area to enhance connectivity with two existing protected areas and foster its financial sustainability through the sale of forest carbon credits. The work entailed developing a framework by

which private investors could purchase land to establish the Zorzal reserve, sell forest carbon offset credits to chocolate companies in North America, and support cacao farmers to reforest areas with native species. Based on initial success, the project estimates that it will exceed US\$750,000 in sale of forest carbon credits over the next 30 years. Additional revenue generated for reforestation efforts will ensure long-term financing for biodiversity protection.

◆ Public-private partnership focuses on water



▲ Maputaland-Pondoland-Albany Biodiversity Hotspot

In South Africa, WWF South Africa has promoted catchment stewardship by expanding its established Water Neutral Programme to the Upper Umgeni Valley, the major source of fresh water for Pietermaritzburg and Durban. Corporations made financial contributions to offset their use of water. The funds were used to clear and maintain land previously overgrown with invasive plants, thereby releasing a significant amount of water back into the watershed and improving habitat for threatened biodiversity.

3.



FFI invertebrate survey in a Myanmar cave. © Dr. Joerg Dreybrodt

PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION

CEPF's approach nurtures evidence-based decision-making by empowering civil society to mainstream biodiversity into development planning.

◆ Working with the cement industry on best practices



▲ Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot

Plants and animals have adapted and evolved to Asia's unique karst landscapes where limestone rock has been shaped into dramatic peaks and extensive caves. These ecosystems are important not only for biodiversity, but also for the cement industry. Limestone is a common ingredient in cement. In

Myanmar, a 2016 stakeholder workshop hosted by CEPF grantee Fauna & Flora International (FFI) brought together for the first time government agencies, cement companies, local conservation organizations and development banks. At the event's conclusion, Shwe Taung Cement Company asked to work with FFI, which assisted the company with its biodiversity management plan and offset strategy for its limestone quarry, the first plan of this type in Myanmar. FFI and its myriad partners have submitted best practice guidelines to the Environment Department to be included in regulations and guidelines for limestone extraction.

◆ Guiding sustainable mining



▲ Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot

The Indonesian Business Council for Sustainable Development (IBCSO) is using CEPF funding to work with mining company PT Vale Indonesia and the Indonesian Mining Association to achieve sustainable mining that conserves biodiversity. In consultation with relevant government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, environmentalists and academics, IBCSD developed guidelines on sustainable mining and is helping PT Vale apply the guidelines to its metal ore mining site in Sulawesi as a demonstration that these methods can be employed with nominal cost to the mining companies. Now IBCSD is working with its partners to develop training modules, train mining company staff, work with the Indonesian Mining Association to disseminate the guidelines, and expand to other types of operations, including coal.

4.



A grey-faced sengi (*Rhynchocyon udzungwensis*), discovered in 2005 in the Udzungwa Mountains, Tanzania, with support from CEPF. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. © MUSE, Museo delle Scienze/photo by Francesco Rovero

DECISION-MAKING IN THE CONTEXT OF RESILIENCE AND UNCERTAINTY

CEPF grantees have played an important role in conducting research and pilot projects to inform policy and decision-making. These efforts have been instrumental in providing a voice to the diverse stakeholders affected by environmental regulations or a lack thereof.

◆ Clarifying the benefits of forests



▲ Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot

In the Guinean Forests of West Africa, the Ghana Wildlife Society is addressing two serious threats to Ghana's biodiversity: insufficient information on forest ecosystems and poor integration of biodiversity conservation into development planning. Ghana Wildlife Society is assessing the role forests play

in services such as soil quality, air purification, climate regulation and flood protection for the Cape Three Points, Atiwa Range and Tano-Offin forest sites. The data the project gathers will be used to promote informed decision-making about land use and mainstreaming of biodiversity into District Assembly planning and private sector practices.

◆ Making charcoal sustainable



▲ Eastern Afromontane Biodiversity Hotspot

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group is advocating for a national biomass energy policy that promotes the sustainable supply of charcoal for Tanzania's growing urban population, 71 percent of which relies on charcoal as their main cooking fuel. The aim is to ensure that charcoal production

revenues are channeled to rural communities, incentivizing those rural communities to maintain woodland on their village land, rather than converting natural forest lands to agricultural use. The project is conducting research on the significance of charcoal production to deforestation in relation to other causes, and pilot work in the Kilolo District to demonstrate that household energy needs can be met by charcoal while still ensuring good management of woodland. The project will also support one district to embrace sustainability principles in the vicinity of the biodiversity-rich Udzungwa Mountains through the development of a district harvesting plan.

5.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND IMPLEMENTATION

CEPF strives to create the enabling conditions that sustain conservation achievements. These include mainstreaming biodiversity into policies, laws and regulations. CEPF grantees have worked to enact or amend 250 policies, laws or regulations

since 2000 by providing scientific and social data, legal analysis, research results, facilitating stakeholder discussions, and developing supporting guidelines and plans.

◆ Data drives Vanuatu pollution regulation



▲ East Melanesian Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

Grantee Vanuatu Environmental Science Society conducted coastal cleanups, and collected data on the amount and type of litter found on beaches and in the ocean. The data was used to persuade lawmakers that a ban was necessary and should include polystyrene containers and straws. Data were provided to the government, leading to a landmark policy achievement—passing of the Waste Management Regulations Order No. 15 of 2018 that will significantly reduce the plastic pollution in Vanuatu’s terrestrial and marine environment.

◆ Communities, conservationists get voice in new law



▲ Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot

The Indonesian Community Forestry Forum has implemented a multi-year process with support of government to revise Indonesia’s law on the Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems (UU 5/1990) and subordinate ministerial regulations so that the law and regulations lead to better protection, management and sustainable use by communities. Involving nearly 100 nongovernmental organizations, many conservation experts and diverse stakeholders, this effort has given voice to the local communities whose lives depend on the incredible but threatened biodiversity of the Wallacea Biodiversity Hotspot.

GOVERNANCE TO SAFEGUARD NATURE AND ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEOPLE

CEPF has a long history of supporting indigenous and local communities to manage their lands sustainably. Grantees have been supported to build their capacity, clarify land tenure, demarcate boundaries, create land use plans, conduct surveys and species monitoring, and hold stakeholder consultations and meetings.

◆ Local people take on land management



▲ Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot

In the Cerrado Biodiversity Hotspot, the Association Quilombo Kalunga is working to improve and consolidate the environmental and territorial management of the Kalunga Historical and Cultural Heritage Site in Brazil. Their efforts have led to their land being officially recognized by the Government of the State of Goiás in 2018, via a deed transferring to the Kalunga people 75,200 hectares of land, including important areas of traditional territory. The efforts now focus on mapping and surveys, developing a management plan, and identifying potential tourist attractions.

JOIN US



Andean bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), Amazonas, Peru. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. © Michael Tweddle

“ The CEPF model can let us actually work directly with the people and communities on the ground. These are the agents who can bring those local actions together towards the global impacts.”

Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson, the Global Environment Facility

“ CEPF and its global partners are already working on the solution. This is a fund that is successful and totally aligned with the most pressing needs of our planet, and we need to build on that.”

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Environment and Energy Minister, Costa Rica

CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank.

Through financial support and organizational strengthening, CEPF empowers civil society organizations in the world's biodiversity hotspots to deliver innovative, enduring solutions that conserve biodiversity and help communities thrive.

www.cepf.net

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